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WEIRTON WOMAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Alicia Ciccarelli, 25, of Weirton, West Virginia, was sentenced today to five years probation by United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston for aiding and abetting the possession with intent to distribute a quantity of heroin. Ciccarelli pleaded guilty in March to the charge. The defendant admitted that on January 16, 2011, she picked up two associates near Pittsburgh and traveled to the Charleston area. Ciccarelli further admitted that she knew one of her associates was in possession of heroin at the time. On the same day, police stopped Ciccarelli's vehicle near Charleston, West Virginia. Prior to a search of the vehicle, one of the defendant's associates asked to remove a dog that was traveling with the group. As the defendant's associate proceeded to remove the dog from the vehicle, he obtained an item from a duffel bag that he subsequently tossed into bushes located along the roadside. The item seized by police contained 55 individual packets of heroin. The defendant admitted that the associate traveling with her intended to distribute the heroin in the Southern District of West Virginia.

The investigation was conducted by the West Virginia State Police. Assistant United States Attorney Monica Schwartz handled the prosecution.

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